(b) Public places are already adequately covered by STD PCOs. Advertisements are oftenly given in the newspapers calling for applications from eligible candidates. Sanction of more STD/PCOs to eligible candidates at public places will be considered by STD/PCO Allotment Committees.

Demand for Telephones in Pentapadu Mandal in West Godawari District

72. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing demand for telephones in Pentapadu Mandal of West Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that about 200 people are in the waiting list from Alampuram Panchayat in Pentapadu Mandal for the last three years;

(c) whether local Telecom Authorities have taken any steps to meet this demand; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Total demand of 476 consisting of 254 working connections and 222 in the waiting list as on 31.10.96 in Pentapadu Mandal of West Godavari Distt. in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir. As on 31.10.96 only 96 applicants are in the waiting list from Alampuram Panchayat in Pentapadu Mandal. The earliest application is of 1.4.1994.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is planned to upgrade the existing exchange at Alampuram Panchayat during 1996-97.

Letter Box at Sultanpuri, Delhi

73. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that P2 Block, Sultanpuri, Delhi which has an approximate population of over 5000, does not have a letter box forcing the people to traverse a considerable distance to post their letters;

(c) whether any representation through an Hon'ble MP has been received by the Chief Postmaster General' Office, Delhi in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps Government have taken or are taking to establish a letter box at P2 block, Sultanpuri, Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) A Letter Box has been installed at P2 Block, Sultanpuri, Delhi on 15.11.1996.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Different rates for Telephone Services in the Rural Areas in Andhra Pradesh

74. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether uniform rent is being charged for telephones operating in rural areas;

(b) whether it is a fact that different rates are being charged in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh for telephones;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in the matter; and

(d) the steps proposed to equalise rentals of rural phones in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The rentals are being charged uniformly for telephones operating in rural areas based on the exchange system.

(b) The telephone rentals are being charged based on exchange system to which rural area pertains.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

Non-payment of dues to Maharashtra by National Textile Corporation

75. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a letter in August, 1996 from Government of Maharashtra requesting for payment of a balance towards purchase of cotton by National Textile Corporation;